

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 05714 071707Z

70

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 OIC-02 EB-07 ISO-00 /021 W

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R 071444Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6844

UNCLAS ROME 5714

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO OCON

SUBJ: RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXPERTS' MEETINGS

REF: A. STATE 80946, B. ROME 5305

1. SINCERELY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S RECOGNITION OF AND ACTION
ON PROBLEMS SET FORTH IN REF B.

2. THIS EXCHANGE OF COMMUNICATIONS, HOWEVER, HAS SURFACED
PRATICAL EXPRESSION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE OF U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO -- I.E. FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT OBSERVERS
TO FAO EXPERTS' MEETINGS (PARA 2 REF A) THAT HAVE NEVER HERETOFORE
BEEN LEVIED UPON THIS OFFICE. WE BELIVE THIS ASSIGNMENT OF
RESPONSIBILITY IS UNNECESSARY FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE HAS NO INVOLVEMENT IN OR
KNOWLEDGE OF EXPERTS' MEETINGS, AS POINTED OUT IN REF B. TO US
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER U.S. PARTICIPANT IS FROM PRIVATE
UNIVERSITY, FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AT FAO EXPENSE,
OR FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT PAID FOR BY U.S. GOVERNMENT.
WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF OR INVOLVEMENT IN MEETING.

B. STANDAR RULE OF CORRESPONDENCE, DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER,
IS THAT REPLY GOES BACK THROUGH SAME CHANNEL AS COMMUNICATION
RECIEVED. TAKING CASE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT OBSERVER TO EXPERTS'
MEETING CITED IN REF A. PARA 2, INVIAION WAS EXTENDED DIRECTLY
BY FAO TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE. STATE DID NOT REPLY
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TO THIS FAO INVITATION. INSTEAD, OFFICE OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

TO FAO WAS ASKED TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATION FOR AID OFFICIAL,
AND IT WAS ONLY THROUGH U.S. REPRESENTATIVE'S CHECKING WITH FAO
ON HOTEL RESERVATION THAT FAO LEARNED U.S. WAS SENDING
GOVERNMENT OBSERVER, AND WHO HE WAS. NORMALY REPLY WOULD
HAVE BEEN TO FAO, WHICH COULD INCLUDE REQUEST FOR HOTEL
RESERVATIONS. FAO OFFICIALS HAVE NOT INITIATED COMPLAINT,
BUT ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT U.S. GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO RESPOND TO
THEIR INVITATIONS.

3. WE ARE NOT TRYING TO SHIRK LEGITIMATE WORK REQUIREMENTS,
AND WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO MEET ANY EMERGENCY NEED THAT MAY
ARISE, BUT WE ARE TRYING TO REDUCE INORDINATE TIME SPENT ON
NON-ESSENTIALS AT COST OF SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT OF CONFERENCE
ACTIVITY.VOLPE

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Disposition Event:
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